

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for broadcasting information over a television distribution network, comprising:

a) a network headend for accessing video programming information comprising a plurality of video programs and Internet-based information from one or more sources, and broadcasting said video programming and Internet-based information, at least a portion of said Internet-based information ~~associated with a~~ comprising content related to said plurality of video programs;

b) a plurality of downstream channels interfaced to said headend for transmitting ~~a selected one of said video programs~~ said video programming information and said Internet-based information, said plurality of downstream channels comprising a plurality of information data streams conveying said Internet-based information; and

c) a plurality of terminal devices for receiving said downstream channels, each said terminal device including:

- 1) a tuner for receiving and selecting said downstream channels; and
- 2) a terminal processor for receiving ~~an information a request for at~~ least a portion of the Internet-based information from a user, and in response thereto, instructing said tuner to:

switch from selecting one of said downstream channels on which said selected video program is transmitted to selecting, via one-way hyperlinking, one of said downstream channels on which said requested Internet-based information is being transmitted from said headend, said switch between downstream channels being delayed until a time at which one of said information data streams including said requested Internet-based information is to be transmitted from said network headend, said time being determined using timing information identifying when each of said information data streams is to be transmitted from said network headend; and

revert to selecting said one of said downstream channels on which said selected video program is being transmitted for concurrently displaying said

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selected video program and said requested Internet-based information.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said terminal device further includes a memory containing a channel mapping database for identifying, for each of a plurality of possible Internet-based information requests received from a user, a one of said downstream channels on which said requested Internet-based information is being transmitted from said headend.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said headend further includes at least a first multiplexer for multiplexing a plurality of information data streams on one of said downstream channels, each of said information data streams containing information identified by a corresponding one of said plurality of information requests; and said channel mapping database further includes said timing information, said timing information identifying a time slot in a multiple time slot sequence when each of said information data streams is to be transmitted.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said terminal device further includes a memory for storing said Internet-based information conveyed by said information data streams, and a display manager for formatting said Internet-based information for display on a video monitor interfaced to said terminal device.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein said display manager further includes a picture-in-picture application for simultaneously displaying said Internet-based information stored in said memory and said selected video program.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said headend further includes an encoder for digitally encoding said information data streams to be broadcast and said terminal device further includes a decoder for decoding said information data streams, said encoder being programmed to generate a full image frame periodically to

facilitate synchronization of said decoder with said encoded data stream.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said requested ~~information comprises Internet web page data, said web page having content that~~ Internet-based information is related to said selected video program that is being received by said tuner at a time that said Internet-based information request is received by said terminal processor.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further including an input device for entering information requests into said terminal processor either through actuation of a button on said input device, or selection of an on-screen button displayed on a video image.

10. (Withdrawn) A terminal device for receiving information transmitted on a plurality of downstream channels in a television distribution system, and formatting said information for display on a video display device, said terminal device comprising:

- a) a tuner for receiving and selecting said downstream channels;
- b) a memory for storing channel mapping and information request identification information; and
- c) a processor for receiving an information request from a user, said processor being programmed, in response to receipt of said information request, to access said memory to identify first information specified by said request, determine a first of said channels on which said first information is to be transmitted, and cause said tuner to select said first of said channels to receive said first information.

11. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 10, wherein said processor is further programmed to download said first information into a cache in said memory, and then instruct said tuner to select a second of said channels that is transmitting second information that was being received when said information request for said first information was received by said processor.

12. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 11, further comprising a display manager for formatting first images corresponding to said first information stored in said memory and second images corresponding to said second information in a picture-in-picture format for simultaneous display on a display device interfaced to said terminal device.

13. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 10, wherein said channel mapping database contains information that maps each of a plurality of possible information requests to one of said downstream channels on which corresponding information is to be transmitted.

14. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 13, wherein said channel mapping database further includes time slot information identifying a time slot in a multiplexed data stream in which information corresponding to each information request is to be transmitted.

15. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 14, wherein said processor is further programmed to instruct said tuner to select said first channel just prior to transmission on said first channel of said first information in said multiplexed data stream.

16. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 10, further including a second tuner for downloading channel mapping and information request identification information into said channel mapping database.

17. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 10, wherein said device is a set top converter box for receiving a plurality of cable television channels.

18. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 17, wherein said information request comprises a request for Internet-based information that is related to a content of a video program that is being received by said tuner when said information request for

information is received by said processor.

19. (Withdrawn) The terminal device of claim 10, wherein said information request comprises a request for information selected from the group comprising Internet-based information, program guide information and user account information.

20. (Withdrawn) The terminal display device of claim 10, further including a wireless receiver for receiving information requests from a wireless input device.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for requesting and receiving information in a television distribution network comprising:

- a) providing a network headend for accessing video programming information comprising a plurality of video programs and Internet-based information from one or more sources, and broadcasting said video programming information and Internet-based information, at least a portion of said Internet-based information associated with a comprising content related to said plurality of video programs;
- b) providing a plurality of downstream channels interfaced to said headend for transmitting ~~a selected one of said video programs~~ said video programming information and said Internet-based information, said plurality of downstream channels comprising a plurality of information data streams conveying said Internet-based information;
- c) providing a plurality of terminal devices interfaced to said downstream channels for receiving said downstream channels, and formatting said video programming information and said Internet-based information for display on a display device, each said terminal device including a tuner for receiving and selecting said downstream channels, and a terminal processor for receiving Internet-based information requests from a user, and instructing said tuner to switch between selecting said downstream channels;
- d) receiving a request for a portion of the Internet-based information in said terminal device from an input device;
- e) identifying one of said downstream channels on which said requested Internet-based information is being transmitted;

f) causing said tuner to switch from selecting one of said downstream channels on which said selected video program is transmitted to selecting, via one-way hyperlinking, said identified one of said downstream channels on which said requested Internet-based information is transmitted, said switch between downstream channels being delayed until a time at which one of said information data streams including said requested Internet-based information is to be transmitted from said network headend, said time being determined using timing information identifying when each of said information data streams is to be transmitted from said network headend;

g) causing said tuner to revert from selecting said identified one of said downstream channels on which said requested Internet-based information is transmitted to selecting said downstream channel on which said selected video program is transmitted; and

h) displaying said selected one of said video programs and said requested Internet-based information concurrently.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said terminal device further includes a memory containing a channel mapping database for identifying, for each of a plurality of possible Internet-based information requests received from a user, a one of said channels on which said requested Internet-based information is being transmitted from said headend, and said step of identifying a one of said downstream channels on which said Internet-based information is to be transmitted comprises accessing said channel mapping database to identify said downstream channel from said Internet-based information request.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

i) storing said requested Internet-based information in a memory in said terminal device.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

j) after said requested Internet-based information is stored in said memory, causing said tuner to revert from selecting said identified one of said downstream channels to selecting said downstream channel on which said selected video program is transmitted;

k) formatting said requested Internet-based information and said selected video program into a combined picture-in-picture image data stream; and

l) supplying said image data stream to a display device.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of encoding said information data streams in said headend to be broadcast to form a plurality of encoded data streams, said encoding including periodic generation of a full image frame, and decoding said encoded data streams in said terminal device.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said requested ~~information comprises Internet web page data, said web page having content that~~ Internet-based information is related to said selected video program that is being received by said tuner at a time that said information request is received by said terminal processor.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of receiving a request for information in said terminal device from an input device, further includes entering said request either through actuation of a button on said input device, or selection of an on-screen button displayed on a video image.

29. (Withdrawn) A terminal device for receiving multiple information streams and forming a picture-in-picture image information stream therefrom comprising:

1) a tuner for receiving and selecting a plurality of channels, each of said channels transmitting one or more information streams;

2) a terminal processor for instructing said tuner to select one of said

downstream channels;

- 3) a memory for storing information received on said downstream channels;

and

4) a display manager having a picture-picture graphics application for retrieving information stored in said memory, and combining it with an information stream that is being received by said tuner on one of said downstream channels to form a picture-in-picture image data stream for simultaneous display of said stored information and said information stream on a display device interfaced to said terminal device.

30. (Withdrawn) A method for receiving multiple information streams and forming a picture-in-picture image data stream therefrom comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a terminal device having a tuner for receiving and selecting a plurality of channels, each of said channels transmitting one or more information streams;
- b) receiving a first information stream on one of said channels;
- c) storing said first information stream in a memory in said terminal device;
- d) receiving a second information stream on one of said channels;
- e) combining said first information stream with said second information in a picture-in-picture format to form a combined image data stream; and
- f) supplying said combined image information stream to a display device for simultaneous display of images corresponding to said first and second information streams.

31. (Withdrawn) A network headend for accessing information from one or more sources, and broadcasting said information over a television distribution network, said headend comprising:

- a) at least one scaler for receiving a first image generating information stream and generating a scaled version of said first information stream having a reduced image size; and
- b) at least one multiplexer for combining said scaled version with a second

image generating information stream to form a combined information stream, said combined information stream being formatted in a picture-in-picture format where a first image generated by said first image generating information stream is overlaid on a second image generated by said second image generating information stream.

32. (Withdrawn) The headend of claim 31, further including an encoder for encoding said scaled version prior to being combined with said second information stream.

33. (Withdrawn) The headend of claim 31, wherein said first information stream is a video program, and said second information stream is selected from the group comprising an Internet web page, a television program guide and user account information.

34. (Withdrawn) The headend of claim 33, wherein said second information stream comprises an Internet web page that is related to a program content of said video program.

35. (Withdrawn) A method for transmitting multiple information streams in a networked distribution system comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a first image generating information stream;
- b) scaling said information stream to form a reduced size image generating information stream;
- c) combining said reduced size image information stream with a second image information stream in a picture-in-picture format to form a combined image information stream; and
- d) transmitting said combined image information stream through a distribution network.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the steps of scaling and combining are carried out in response to a request received from a terminal device for

said second information stream, and

said step of transmitting further comprises transmitting said combined image information stream to said terminal device.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said first information stream is a video program, and said second information stream is selected from the group comprising an Internet web page, a television program guide and user account information.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein said second information stream comprises an Internet web page that is related to a program content of said video program.